

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Other News
Community Relations	Bills in Progress
Equality	Consultations
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Funding Opportunities
Other UK Parliament and Government	Events, Conferences, and Training
New Publications	Useful Links

Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Population Needs and Migration Policy

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11374&i=103435#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-10571 Fiona Hyslop (SNP): Scotland's Population Needs and Migration Policy – That the Parliament notes the publication of the Scottish Government's paper, *Scotland's Population Needs and Migration Policy: Discussion Paper on Evidence, Policy and Powers for the Scottish Parliament*, which details the unique challenges facing Scotland's population and the potential economic gains if migration was sustained; notes the findings of reports from the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee and the UK Parliament's Scottish Affairs Committee and

the All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Integration, which agreed that the current migration system needs to change to reflect local circumstances; notes that the Fresh Talent scheme, which was introduced in 2005 by the Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition administration was both a recognition of the need for a differentiated solution to migration and a demonstration that such a differential approach is possible within a UK-wide system, and supports calls for a debate on the current UK-wide system and for that system to better serve Scotland through an evidence-led approach to appropriate powers for the Parliament, enabling the development of a differentiated, more flexible solution, which is tailored to meet Scotland's specific needs.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-10571>

The discussion paper referred to above can be read at
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00531087.pdf>

S5M-10571.1 Ross Greer (Green): Scotland's Population Needs and Migration Policy – As an amendment to motion S5M-10571 in the name of Fiona Hyslop (Scotland's Population Needs and Migration Policy), insert at end “; recognises that the contribution of migration to Scotland is not restricted to economic benefits; considers that migration provides significant social, educational and cultural enrichment to society, and believes that the Parliament having enhanced powers over migration will ensure that Scotland can establish itself as an outward-looking and progressive nation.”

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-10571.1>

S5M-10571.2 Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat): Scotland's Population Needs and Migration Policy – As an amendment to motion S5M-10571 in the name of Fiona Hyslop (Scotland's Population Needs and Migration Policy), leave out from first "notes" to end and insert "believes that immigration has proven valuable to the economy, population and public services, including the NHS, in all parts of the UK; further believes that immigration and freedom of movement within the EU has enriched the country; notes that, while the Fresh Talent Initiative addressed a specific need, its scale was not sufficient to solve the population and economic challenges that exist in Scotland, and other parts of the UK, and that larger-scale, substantially differentiated approaches would pose a risk to the Common Travel Area, and considers therefore that what is required is a new UK-wide debate on the benefits of immigration and for the UK Government to cease its divisive rhetoric, abandon its arbitrary immigration cap and produce a statement on the benefits of workers from overseas, similar to that produced by the Scottish Government's Chief Economist in January 2018."

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-10571.2>

S5M-10571.3 Jackson Carlaw (Conservative): Scotland's Population Needs and Migration Policy – As an amendment to motion S5M-10571 in the name of Fiona Hyslop (Scotland's Population Needs and Migration Policy), leave out from "unique" to end and insert "challenges facing Scotland and the rest of the UK's population and the potential economic gains if migration was sustained; notes the findings of reports by the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee and the UK Parliament's Scottish Affairs Committee and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Integration; further notes the concerns of the public and numerous business groups regarding the practicality of significant internal deviation within the UK's migration system, and recognises that any variable migration scheme for Scotland must be developed in close co-operation with the UK Government and within an overall framework."

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-10571.3>

UK Parliament Debate

Refugee Children: Family Reunion in the UK

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-02-22/debates/E8F974BE-1EDA-449A-901B-CDDFAC04F0FA/RefugeeChildrenFamilyReunionInTheUK>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Rights of EU Citizens Resident in the UK

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes) [HCWS471] The Government have been clear since the start of negotiations with the EU that protecting the rights of EU citizens in the UK, together with the rights of UK nationals living in EU countries, was their first priority.

Since the opposition day debate on 29 November 2017 secured by the hon. Member for North East Fife (Stephen Gethins) on the vital issue of safeguarding citizens' rights, we have delivered on that commitment and reached an agreement with our EU partners on citizens' rights. The agreement was set out as part of a joint report issued on 8 December 2017, and provides more than three million EU citizens living in the UK with certainty about their future rights and, most importantly, allows them and their families to stay in the UK.

The agreement will protect EU citizens who have been exercising free movement rights in the UK at the time of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Family members, including those from outside the EU, living lawfully in the UK with a qualifying EU citizen at this point are also protected.

As part of our citizens' rights agreement, we have agreed with the EU that we will introduce a new settled status scheme under UK law for EU citizens and their family members who are covered by the agreement. Those who have already had five years of continuous residence in the UK will be eligible to apply for settled status. Others will be able to remain in the UK to build up their five years' residence.

We have agreed with the EU that the eligibility criteria for UK settled status will be the same as, or more favourable than, those set out in the EU Directive 2004/38/EC for acquiring permanent residence. In line with this, we have already committed to setting the evidence requirements to suit the demands of this unique situation and have taken a unilateral decision to introduce more favourable provisions to ensure that everyone lawfully in the UK on exit day will be able to stay. For example, we will not require evidence that economically inactive EU citizens have previously held comprehensive sickness insurance or apply a "genuine and effective" work test. We are engaging closely with representative bodies for EU citizens in the UK to understand all the different circumstances under which they have built their lives in the UK so as to tailor evidential requirements appropriately.

Those who obtain settled status under the agreement on citizens' rights will be granted indefinite leave to remain in UK law. This status will provide the holder with the same access to benefits, education and healthcare as those who have obtained permanent residence under EU law.

In addition, those granted indefinite leave to remain in line with this agreement will also benefit from certain more favourable entitlements than those with permanent residence under EU law. For example, their status will not lapse unless they have been continuously absent from the UK for over five years, as opposed to two years.

Importantly, our agreement on citizens' rights has also opened the door for us to finalise work on the development and delivery of the new system for settled status applications.

The scheme, which will open for applications by the end of 2018, will be streamlined, user-friendly and will draw on existing Government data to minimise the burden on applicants to provide evidence.

The Home Office will work with applicants to ensure that their application is not refused

on minor technicalities, and caseworkers considering applications will exercise discretion in favour of the applicant where appropriate. As a result, we expect the vast majority of cases to be granted.

To ensure all EU citizens and their families have enough time to apply for UK status, the scheme will remain open for applications for at least two years after the UK leaves the EU. During this period, they will enjoy the rights conferred by the agreement. The application fee will not exceed the cost charged to British citizens for a UK passport, and for those who already have a valid permanent residence document there will be a simple process to exchange this for a new settled status document which will be free of charge.

The agreement reached in December will now be converted into the legal text of the Withdrawal agreement. The withdrawal agreement and implementation Bill will incorporate the contents of the withdrawal agreement, including the agreement on citizens' rights, into UK law by primary legislation. This will mean that the agreement on citizens' rights will have direct effect in UK law and EU citizens can rely directly on it.

We are pleased with the progress we have made on citizens' rights. Reaching an agreement with the EU on this and other separation issues is an important step on our journey towards a new relationship with our European partners.

The Government hugely value the contributions that EU citizens and their families make to the economic, social and cultural fabric of this country, and we have been clear from the start that we want them to stay. The agreement we have reached with the EU will allow EU citizens to do this and continue living their lives as they do now.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-02-20/debates/18022025000013/RightsOfEUCitizensResidentInTheUK>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Children

Neil Coyle (Labour) [127100] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much parents with no recourse to public funds must pay to establish that their children are UK nationals.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: A child born in the UK will be a British citizen if at the time of the birth one or more of their parents is settled or a British citizen. Evidence of these facts is sufficient to establish that a child is British.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127100/>

Migration Advisory Committee

Ged Killen (Labour Co-op) [128131] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of establishing a separate stakeholder group to the Migration Advisory Committee with representatives from (a) the devolved administrations and (b) regional and city mayors.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) has a UK-wide remit. On 27 July 2017, the Government commissioned the MAC to report on the impact on the UK labour market of the UK's exit from the European Union and how the UK's immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy. The commission specifically required the MAC to consider the impacts on different parts of the UK.

In taking evidence, the MAC has visited Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and every region of England.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128131/>

Immigration: Advisory Services

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [127123] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

how many immigration advisers were registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) in each year since 2016; how many complaints the OISC received about immigration advisers registered with them in each of those years; how many complaints resulted in a OISC reported wrongdoing on the part of the adviser; and in how many such cases the OISC (a) took action against the adviser and (b) referred the complaint.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner's (OISC) annual report and accounts sets out the number of immigration advisors, including the levels at which they are registered, the number of complaints received and how the OISC dealt with those complaints, and the regulatory action that may be taken against organisations which are found to be in breach of the Commissioner's Code of Standards. The reports for 2015/16 and 2016/17 can be viewed on the OISC's website

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/583681/10574-OISC_Annual_Report_2016_Accessible2.pdf

and

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/677182/OISCAnnualReportAccounts2016.pdf.

Information relating to the period between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 will be included in the OISC's 2017/18 annual report and accounts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127123/>

Immigrants: Health Services

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [128344] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether non-EEA immigrants who have been issued an ancestry visa and already live and work in the UK will be affected by the planned increase in the immigration healthcare surcharge.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Non-EEA migrants who have entered the UK via the ancestry route, will be affected by the proposed increase to the immigration health surcharge if they apply to extend their temporary stay after the increase has come into force. Migrants applying for indefinite leave to remain will continue to be exempt from the surcharge.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128344/>

Grenfell Tower Relatives policy

Emma Dent Coad (Labour) [125883] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information she holds on the number of cases granted a visa under the Grenfell Tower Relatives policy who have returned to their country of origin.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office acted swiftly to grant visas to relatives of those directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. In all cases where the Immigration Rules were not met, consideration was given to leave outside of the Immigration Rules on exceptional grounds.

The Grenfell Relatives' Policy announced on 11 October 2017 allowed relatives granted a short period of leave outside of the rules, to extend their stay up to six months from their date of entry to the UK. Existing policies are in place to allow any relative to apply for further leave to remain in the UK.

We have plans to publish statistics about applications made by survivors and relatives of victims and survivors in due course, once the data have been properly assured.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-31/125883/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [7162] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she expects to be able to announce the package of benefits, pensions, healthcare, economic and other rights EU citizens will maintain under the new immigration status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Prime Minister has been clear that safeguarding the rights of EU citizens living in the UK and UK nationals living in the EU was her first priority for negotiations.

The citizens' rights agreement reached in December, and set out in our Joint Report, will provide EU citizens living in the UK with certainty about their rights going forward.

It will enable families who have built their lives together to stay together, and not only gives more certainty about residence, but also access to healthcare, pensions and other benefits.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7162/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [128506] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on immigration from the EU during any potential transition period as part of the UK leaving the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: During the implementation period after the UK's withdrawal from the EU, EU citizens will continue to be able to live and work in the UK, but there will be a registration system in preparation for our future immigration system. We have yet to agree their longer-term rights, but they should have different expectations to those here before exit.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-20/128506/>

Visas

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [127266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the criteria are for visa applications to be designated as (a) complex, (b) non-straightforward and (c) outside service standards; and how many such applications have been so designated in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Visa applications are considered to be complex when an Entry Clearance Officer determines that additional information is required in order for a decision to be made.

There are no set standards for processing non-straightforward (identified as complex) by the caseworker. However, if an application is complex and expected to take longer than the standard processing timescale, UKVI will write to the customer within the standard processing time and explain what will happen next.

The published information on processing times for complex/ non straightforward visa applications is published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127266/>

Visas

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [127269] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average processing time has been for each type of visa application in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is

published online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127269/>

Visas: Married People

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [127265] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether staff processing visa applications have been given any (a) guidance and (b) instructions on whether to deprioritise spouse visa applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UKVI has not issued any guidance or instruction to deprioritise spouse visa applications.

Staff continue to operate under published processing times which can be found online at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127265/>

Visas: Migrant Workers

Kate Green (Labour) [128661] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of businesses raising offered salaries for non-Europeans workers to assist the approval of work visas.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Salaries paid by employers are a matter for the employers in question. It is a requirement, for all Tier 2 (General) jobs, that a migrant must be paid the appropriate salary for the occupation in question. This requirement helps to ensure fair pay for migrant workers and prevents Tier 2 being used to undercut resident workers.

The minimum salary for Tier 2 is £30,000 or £20,800 for new entrants, or the appropriate rate for the job, whichever is the higher. The minimum salary levels are based on the salary distribution for all positions in the UK. For experienced workers, this is set at the 25th percentile, the rate for new entrants be set at the 10th percentile Tier 2 salaries have remained at their current levels since April 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-20/128661/>

Visas: Migrant Workers

Kate Green (Labour) [128662] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for visas for non-EU workers were refused for each tier and type of work visa in each of the last three months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on grants and refusals of applications for entry clearance work visas, by Tier and category, are published on a quarterly basis, in the quarterly Immigration Statistics. (latest edition 'Immigration Statistics, October – December 2017', Visas data tables volume 1, table vi_01_q, available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017>).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-20/128662/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lucy Allan (Conservative) [128387] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to review the annual quota of Tier 2 visas.

Lucy Allan (Conservative) [128152] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to expedite the issuing of Tier 2 visas.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Tier 2, our main immigration route for non-EEA workers, operates an annual cap of 20,700 places per year. The cap, which was set on advice from the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), ensures that the Government can control migration and encourages employers to look first to the domestic workforce before recruiting from overseas.

Places are allocated on a monthly basis to ensure consistency and that places can be allocated according to priority. Places are allocated first to those in occupations which are in national shortage and which appear on the published Shortage Occupation List (SOL). The SOL is drawn up on the basis of advice from the MAC.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128387/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128152/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

Stephen Gethins (SNP) [128421] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department makes a comparative assessment of salary differentials in different parts of the UK in respect of granting visas for skilled non-European workers.

Stephen Gethins (SNP) [128422] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department made of salary differentials in the different parts of the UK for visas for skilled non-European workers in (a) December 2017, (b) January 2018 and (c) February 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Immigration is a reserved matter. The Government considers the needs of the UK as a whole and is committed to developing an immigration system that serves the national interest.

Applying different immigration rules to different parts of the UK would complicate the immigration system, harming its integrity, and cause difficulties for employers who need the flexibility to deploy their staff to other parts of the UK.

The independent Migration Advisory Committee has repeatedly recommended that we should not operate different salary thresholds for different regions and countries in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128421/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128422/>

Engineers and Scientists: Visas

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [124824] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many scientists and engineers have been refused a Tier 2 (General) Certificate of Sponsorship since November 2017 due to the annual cap having been reached; which Standard Occupational Classification codes have been affected by that cap; and how many applications have been refused for each such code.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The specific information requested is not included in statistics published by the Home Office.

The number of restricted certificates of sponsorship granted, and the points threshold, for each monthly allocation since April 2016 is published on the Home Office website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-sponsorship-restricted-certificate-allocations/allocations-of-restricted-certificates-of-sponsorship>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-24/124824/>

Doctors: Migrant Workers

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [127523] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the minimum salary threshold for granting visas to overseas doctors with offers of employment in UK hospitals; and will she make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Tier 2 (General) minimum salary thresholds for overseas doctors were set following consultation with the independent Migration Advisory Committee and are based on pay scales published by the NHS – and have not been recently changed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127523/>

Doctors: Migrant Workers

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [127886] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the system for determining the number of points required for a certificate of sponsorship for overseas doctors seeking work in UK hospitals.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) has determined that a number of doctors, including consultants specialising in clinical radiology and emergency medicine, are in national shortage and they appear on the published Shortage Occupation List (SOL) which sits under Tier 2, our main immigration route for non-EEA workers.

Applications for jobs on the SOL receive the highest priority – and the highest number of points – when allocating a Tier 2 (General) place.

The SOL is kept under regular review, with the most recent changes made to it last April.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/127886/>

Junior Doctors: Migrant Workers

Emma Reynolds (Labour) [127350] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for Tier 2 visas for junior doctors were declined in the past 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The information you have requested is not included in statistics published by the Home Office.

Information on the total number of Tier 2 refusals can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/list-of-tables#visas>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127350/>

Doctors: Migrant Workers

Jonathan Ashworth (Labour Co-op) [128369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions (a) she or (b) Officials of her Department have had with (i) other Government departments and (ii) the Migration Advisory Committee on including doctors on the Shortage Occupation List; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Shortage Occupation List is based on advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee and is kept under regular review, with the most recent changes made to it last April, reflecting the latest advice and evidence from the Committee.

The MAC has determined that a number of doctors, including consultants specialising in clinical radiology and emergency medicine, are in national shortage and already appear on the Shortage Occupation List (SOL). This ensures that

applications for these posts receive the highest priority – and the highest number of points – when allocating a Tier 2 (General) place.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128369/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [127120] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of credibility interviews for Tier 4 visa applications that have taken place since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The specific information that has been requested is not included in statistics published by the Home Office.

Information on the number of applications and decisions (i.e. grants, refusals, withdrawn and lapsed cases) is published quarterly in the Home Office's Immigration Statistics, Visas volume 1, table vi_01_q, latest edition at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127120/>

Refugees: France

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [122221] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to discuss with the French Minister of the Interior (a) the transfer of refugees for family reunification (b) the creation of safe and legal routes for child refugees and vulnerable adults and (c) the creation of reception centres for child refugees in France while their family reunification applications are processed.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Secretary met with French Interior Minister Collomb, at the UK France summit on 18 January 2018. They discussed a range of issues in relation to UK and France's joint efforts to manage illegal migration, including our shared border and our ongoing commitment to effectively implement respective obligations to unaccompanied children and families.

Further details can be found in my [Written Ministerial Statement](#) of 19 January 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-11/122221/>

Refugees: Employment

Kemi Badenoch (Conservative) [128076] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 January 2018 to Question 124937, if she will create a web page with information for employers wishing to employ refugees; and if she will include (a) information on the right of refugees to work in the UK, (b) the difference between the rights of asylum seekers and those of refugees, (c) a link to the check a biometric residence permit web page, (d) a link to the employer checking service web page, and (e) guidelines on the documentation needed to prove refugee status on that web page.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Guidance to employers on carrying out Right to Work checks includes information in respect of the employment of refugees and asylum seekers. This guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employers-illegal-working-penalties>.

Documentation to demonstrate an individual's right to work in the UK is set out in the employer guidance and Code of Practice for preventing illegal working. Anyone who is granted permission to remain in the UK as a refugee has unrestricted access to the labour market and can demonstrate their status and work entitlement through their Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).

There is currently no plan to create a new webpage dedicated to employers of refugees, however, Gov.uk content is kept under continuous review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128076/>

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Thangam Debonnaire (Labour) [127431] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the data held by her Department on the average length of time taken to make a decision on an asylum support application.

Thangam Debonnaire (Labour) [127432] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to publishing data on length of time taken for decisions to be made on applications for asylum support on a quarterly basis.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office monitors closely the performance of asylum support application decision making and has a range of targets for processing support applications depending on the nature of the application being made. However information on processing times is not recorded in a format suitable for publication and there are no plans to publish such statistics at this time.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127431/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127432/>

Asylum

Jo Stevens (Labour) [127672] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many current asylum applicants' claims have taken more than 182 days to process.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not publish data relating to the number of cases where a decision has been made after 6 months, however, the data on the number of cases awaiting decision for more than 6 months can be found on the tab ASY 11 in the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127672/>

Asylum

Jo Stevens (Labour) [127676] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect the Government's hostile environment policy on the ability of asylum seekers to claim asylum in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Anyone who wishes to claim asylum should do so at the first available opportunity. This usually means claiming in the first safe country they reach.

Individuals are expected to claim asylum on arrival in the UK at the port of entry. Where a person's circumstances have changed since arriving in the UK, such that they have a fear of persecution, or they did not claim on arrival for any reason, they should attend the Asylum Intake Unit in Croydon to register their claim. This process has not changed since the introduction of the compliant environment.

The compliant environment is designed to protect public services and benefits from those who are not entitled to them, and incentivise immigration offenders to depart the UK voluntarily or regularise their status.

It is a long-standing policy that asylum seekers are not normally allowed to work, but are entitled to access Home Office accommodation and support if they would otherwise be destitute while their claim is outstanding.

Individuals who have had their asylum claim rejected and who have no other lawful basis to remain in the UK are able to access the Home Office's Voluntary

Returns Service. They provide support to those wishing to leave the UK, which can include financial support for reintegration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127676/>

Asylum: Children

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [7830] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to table AS 08 Q of the Quarterly Immigration Statistics, January to March 2017, published on 25 May 2017, how many applications for asylum made during Quarter 1 of 2017 were made by unaccompanied children who arrived in the UK (a) under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, (b) through the Dublin III Regulation and (c) by their own initiative.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: On 30 November, the Government published data on the numbers of children transferred to the UK from the Calais camp clearance under both the Dublin III Regulation and section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. The data can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transfers-of-children-to-the-uk-from-the-calais-operation-november-2017> The Government has committed to publishing regular updates on the number of those transferred under the Dublin III Regulation. This data will be published in the coming months. Eurostat the EU's statistics agency regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report.

The Home Office publishes a range of data on asylum claims from unaccompanied children which can be found at the following link. This data relates to all unaccompanied children who have claimed asylum in the UK and does not provide a breakdown depending on the child's method of entry.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7830/>

Asylum: English Language

The following four questions all received the same answer

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [127586] To ask the Minister for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers do not have access to free classes in English as a second language.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [127587] To ask the Minister for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have access to 10 hours a week of free classes in English as a second language.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [127588] To ask the Minister for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the minimum necessary standard of spoken and written English for a refugee to integrate in the UK.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [127589] To ask the Minister for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the minimum total teaching time in English as a second language that is required to allow asylum seekers to achieve adequate standards of spoken and written English.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office recognises the importance of English language for refugee integration. Refugees are able to access English language classes through the Department for Education's Adult Education Budget, in the same way as someone from the UK. An additional £10m was provided to provide more English language classes for refugees resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Not all those who make their own way to the UK to seek asylum will be found to be refugees and nearly all will have travelled through other safe countries to get to

the UK. This is why support towards integration is offered only when asylum seekers are granted refugee status.

The Home Office does not fund English classes for asylum seekers. Asylum seekers aged 19 or over become eligible for a 50% contribution to the costs of English language classes through the Adult Education Budget, when they have been legally in the UK for longer than six months and are awaiting a decision on their asylum claim or have failed in their claim but have been granted support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. No data is held nationally on the numbers of asylum seekers accessing free English classes. Those learning English as a second language, including asylum seekers and refugees, are individuals with different starting points of English language proficiency who will learn English at different rates, meaning the number of teaching hours to progress English language capability will vary considerably.

The level of English required to enable refugee integration will also vary by individual, however, the Home Office considers ESOL entry level three to be the standard to aim for, as employment opportunities are greater for those with this level of English language capability.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127586/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127587/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127588/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127589/>

Asylum: Social Security Benefits

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [127585] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 January 2018 to question 121556, on Asylum, what steps her Department plans to take with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure refugees are not left destitute following a successful asylum application.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with accommodation and a cash allowance to cover their other essential living needs.

If they are granted refugee status this support stops 28 days after they are given notice of the decision and provided with a Biometric Residence Permit, which is the evidence they need to prove that they are able to take employment or apply for mainstream benefits from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The permit now contains their national insurance number.

The Home Office now has in place a scheme involving the Department for Work and Pensions which involves contacting the refugees at the point when they are granted their status to see if they wish to apply for benefits and require assistance to do so. If they say they do, an appointment at a local DWP office is arranged for them.

This process is designed to ensure that refugees receive the first payment of any benefit they are entitled to before the 28 days period expires, either by full payment of the benefit or an advance payment of Universal Credit where this is needed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127585/>

Asylum: Finance

David Lammy (Labour) [128377] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the merits of increasing the monthly cash allowance in line with inflation for people claiming asylum.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The cash allowance provided to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute to enable them to meet their essential living needs is reviewed each year, using a methodology that was established in 2015 and which the courts have agreed is a rational approach. The annual review takes account of inflation since the previous review.

Following the most recent review, the allowance was raised from £36.95 per week to £37.75 per week, with the change implemented from the week beginning 5 February 2018.

A report setting out the full detail of the review and how inflation was considered can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128377/>

Asylum: Mental Health Services

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [127628] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what psychological support is provided by her Department to victims of torture seeking asylum in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All officials making decisions on asylum claims receive a dedicated five-week foundation training programme which includes specific sections on torture and medical reports, and ensuring alleged victims of torture are assessed fairly and sensitively. Staff working with asylum claimants are trained to identify mental health concerns but are not medically trained to identify the need for treatment. Where mental health concern is identified, the claimant is referred, or signposted, to medical or support services.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127628/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [128209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many female asylum-seekers are housed in mixed-sex accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office closely monitors Accommodation Providers to ensure that they adhere to contractual requirements to consider individual characteristics, including gender, when allocating appropriate accommodation. Services users are not accommodated in mixed-sex dispersal accommodation unless part of a same family unit. Those service users who are accommodated in initial accommodation are provided with same sex rooms or blocks. Information on the gender mix of individual properties is not held in a reportable format and the requested information could therefore only be provided at disproportionate cost by examination of individual property records.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128209/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [127924] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2018 to Question 121912, if she will publish the template grant agreement that is to be the basis for the agreements for the local authority asylum support liaison officers between the Government and successful applicant local authorities.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Government is committed to ensuring that the transition from government-supported accommodation into mainstream services is as smooth as possible for all those granted refugee status.

My Department will be awarding £1.75 million from the Controlling Migration Fund in 2018/19 to successful English local authorities who applied to trial new ways of supporting new refugees into housing, employment and English language learning.

We have no current plans to publish the template grant agreement letter, although individual local authorities may choose to do so once they have been notified of the outcome of their application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/127924/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121912/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [127925] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 29 January 2018 to Question 123998 on asylum: housing, how many proposals for additionally funded service provision have been received; what the total financial value of those proposals is; whether those proposals and funds were used for any purposes deemed appropriate by the provider; and whether they adhered to the stipulations outlined in the Written Statement of 8 December 2016, HCWS335 on asylum accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum Accommodation Providers have submitted proposals under the terms of the contract for additionally funded service provision in each of the 6 contract regions. The Home Office has assessed proposals and provided additional funding in 5 of the contract regions. The level of funding is commercially sensitive; however, as part of the Governments transparency agenda the Home Office publishes spend data with all providers on the GOV.UK website where the spend is over £25,000.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/127925/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-22/123998/>

Asylum: Housing

David Lammy (Labour) [128378] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the living conditions in asylum accommodation centres; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes): Accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation.

The contract requires Providers to inspect each property every month and UKVI inspects a significant proportion of properties each year to ensure standards are being met. Where asylum accommodation is found to be falling short of the required standards UKVI has procedures in place to hold suppliers to account to quickly resolve the issue.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128378/>

Brook House Immigration Removal Centre

Afzal Khan (Labour) [127773] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of what led to concerns about detainee welfare at Brook House

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government made an immediate assessment that G4S needed to take swift action against an agreed action plan to address necessary improvements at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre. These improvements will ensure that the standards of detainee welfare expected by the Government are met. Progress against this plan is being closely monitored.

Stephen Shaw is currently assessing progress against the recommendations in his report into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons published in January 2016. In addition, the G4S Board has commissioned an independent review to establish the factors affecting staff morale and behaviour and attitudes to whistleblowing. Neither independent review has reported yet. The Government will consider their findings very carefully in due course.

Independent scrutiny is a vital part of assurance that our removal centres are secure and humane. The Government will continue to implement action in response to independent recommendations made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and by the centre's Independent Monitoring Board.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127773/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Neil Coyle (Labour) [127393] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to reduce the number of deaths of detainees held in immigration detention centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The prevention of deaths in detention is a priority for the Home Office. The adults at risk in immigration detention policy, which came into force on 12 September 2016, was part of the Government's response to Stephen Shaw's review of the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention. It introduced a case-by-case evidence-based assessment of the appropriateness of detention for any individual who is considered vulnerable, balanced against the immigration control considerations that apply in their case. Mr. Shaw's follow up to his original review started on 4 September 2017 and will include an assessment of the implementation of all of his earlier review recommendations.

The treatment and health services received by individuals in immigration detention should be equivalent to that received by people in the community. Individuals are offered a physical and mental examination within 24 hours of admission to detention, and there is a requirement for IRC doctors to report to the Home Office any special illness or conditions that might affect the decision to continue the detention of an individual. There are also in place processes for staff to follow when there has been a change to the physical or mental health of a detainee, or a change in the nature or severity of their identified vulnerability, which may impact on the decision to detain.

Staff at all immigration removal centres (IRC) are trained to identify those at risk of self harm so that action can be taken to minimise the risk. All incidents of self harm are treated very seriously and every step is taken to prevent incidents of this nature. Formal risk assessments on initial detention and systems for raising concerns at any subsequent point feed into established self harm procedures in every IRC, which are in turn underpinned by the Home Office Operating Standard on the prevention of self-harm and Detention Services Order 06/2008 Assessment Care in Detention Teamwork (ACDT).

Each death in immigration detention is subject to investigation by the police, the coroner (or Procurator Fiscal in Scotland) and the independent Prisons and

Probation Ombudsman. Every effort is made to learn lessons from these investigations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127393/>

Deportation: Sudan

The following two questions both received the same answer

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [127780] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to carry out post-removal monitoring of refugees sent back to Sudan to (a) ensure their safety and (b) collect data on any adverse consequences for them of their return.

Asylum: Sudan

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [127788] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government is in the process of drafting asylum seeker returns and readmission arrangements for Sudan.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government does not return refugees to Sudan since such persons have been found to require international protection.

Sudanese nationals who have, however, been found not to need protection and have no right to remain are expected to leave the UK. If they do not leave voluntarily we may seek to enforce their return on case-by-case basis, when it is safe to do so. We do not routinely monitor the treatment of individuals once removed from the UK. They are, by definition, foreign nationals who have been found not to need protection and it would be inappropriate for us to assume any ongoing responsibility for them when they return to their country.

Should the Home Office receive specific allegations that a returnee has experienced ill-treatment on return, it would be investigated in partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

There are no plans to put in place asylum seeker returns and readmission arrangements for Sudan.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127780/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127788/>

Asylum: Darfur

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [127786] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the number of non-Arab Darfuri asylum seekers who had their asylum claims rejected in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on asylum claimants is held on both the asylum case file and the main immigration database. This will include personal details of claimants and relatives such as claimed dates and places of birth, claimed religion, claimed ethnicity, as well as details of their asylum claims. The way this information is stored is such that it is often not possible to report on these information fields without conducting a manual search of both paper and electronic records. Therefore, we cannot identify how many asylum claims have been granted or refused leave from specific ethnicities or parts of the countries of origin.

Published data relating to the outcomes of asylum claims from each country (including Sudan) can be found in tab as_01 at volume 1 of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017-data-tables>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127786/>

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [127195] To ask the Attorney General, what steps the Government is taking to increase international cooperation in the prosecution of human traffickers.

Reply from Robert Buckland: The UK is taking an ambitious approach to tackling modern slavery internationally, working to deepen cooperation with countries from where we receive high numbers of victims and with countries of high prevalence in order to support their efforts.

Later this month the Crown Prosecution Service will host an international summit for Prosecutors General from 21 countries around the world. It is an ambitious summit which aims to increase activity, identify ways to better support victims and witnesses, and establishing a strong, active international network to tackle the crime of Modern Slavery.

Additionally, there are already 30 specialist prosecutors based overseas, building capability in local criminal justice systems to tackle serious and organised crime, including that of Modern Slavery.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127195/>

Immigration

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [128333] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 30 March 2017 to Question 68451 on Immigration, how many people who passed through the National Referral Mechanism as victims of (a) modern slavery and (b) human trafficking with positive conclusive grounds status were granted discretionary leave to remain in the UK in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The National Crime Agency publishes statistics on referrals into the National Referral Mechanism on a quarterly basis. These reports are available via the following links:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

The specific information you have requested is not currently published.

Statistics on the total number of people granted discretionary leave for all reasons can be found online at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017-data-tables>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128333/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-20/68451/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL5542] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the deadline for responses to immigration applications.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: UKVI service standards for immigration applications can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about-our-services#service-standards>

Where an application is defined as non-straightforward due to complexity, the customer will be written to within the normal processing time to explain why it will

not be decided within the normal standard, and to explain what will happen next.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-08/HL5542/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL5371] To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the occupations and salaries of foreign workers for whom restricted certificates of sponsorship under Tier 2 (General) were allocated by the Home Office in the January 2017 allocation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The specific information requested is not included in statistics published by the Home Office.

The number of restricted certificates of sponsorship granted, and the points threshold, for each monthly allocation since April 2016 is published on the Home Office website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-sponsorship-restricted-certificate-allocations/allocations-of-restricted-certificates-of-sponsorship>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-05/HL5371/>

Undocumented Migrants: Children

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL5373] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the estimate by the Thomas Coram Foundation that there are some 120,000 children in the UK without regular immigration status, of whom half were born here; what are their proposals for improving this situation in line with the best interests of the child; and whether free legal advice is, or will be, available to such children who wish to claim citizenship.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Any non-European Economic Area national child wishing to remain in the UK to settle here must apply for leave under the family Immigration Rules. These Rules give direct effect to the Secretary of State's statutory duty in section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, to have regard, as a primary consideration, to a child's best interests in making an immigration decision affecting them.

Comprehensive information about applying for citizenship is available on the GOV.UK website. If an individual wishes to seek additional legal advice there are a number of sources available, including regulated immigration advisers. Whether a person is charged for that advice would depend on the organisation concerned and the individual's situation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-05/HL5373/>

Asylum: Doctors

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL5541] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allow asylum seekers with medical qualifications to develop and apply their skills in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers are not allowed to work in the UK unless their claim has been outstanding for at least 12 months through no fault of their own. Those who are allowed to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List. This policy is designed to protect the resident labour market so that access to employment is prioritised for British citizens and lawful residents, including those granted refugees status. We have no plans to change this policy.

Once granted refugee status there are no restrictions on employment in any sector, subject to meeting the requirements of that profession.

Asylum seekers may volunteer in both the public and voluntary sectors, or study, providing they can meet the requirements to enroll on the course and pay the

relevant fee. Such activities must not interfere with scheduled events such as a substantive asylum interview, regular reporting event or re-documentation interview.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handling-applications-for-permission-to-take-employment-instruction>

Permission to work

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-08/HL5541/>

Asylum: Bahrain

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL5545] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many citizens of Bahrain applied for asylum in (1) 2016, and (2) 2017.

Immigration: Bahrain

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL5546] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many citizens of Bahrain were granted right to stay without having to appeal in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, and (3) 2017.

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL5547] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many citizens of Bahrain were granted right to stay after appeal of the first decision in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, and (3) 2017.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals, broken down by nationality, in the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* publication. The latest figures, up until 30 September 2017, are available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017>

Data for Q4 2017 is due to be published on 22 February 2018.

Table as_01_q (asylum tables, vol. 1) contains quarterly breakdowns of the number of asylum applications and grants at initial decision, for main applicants.

Table as_14_q (asylum tables, vol. 4) contains quarterly breakdowns of the number of asylum appeals allowed. The appeals allowed figures may include a small number of cases where the asylum application was granted at initial decision, but later appealed against. This may be due to the circumstances of the grant (i.e. discretionary leave/UASC leave rather than asylum).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-08/HL5545/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-08/HL5546/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-08/HL5547/>

Deportation: Young People

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL5374] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children with temporary leave to remain after reaching the age of 18 were deported to their countries of origin, in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not hold the data requested in a reportable format. The data requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office only returns an unaccompanied child with no lawful basis to remain in the UK if it is satisfied that safe and adequate reception arrangements are in place in the country to which they are to be removed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-05/HL5374/>

Deportation: Young People

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL5375] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment of the best interests of the individual child is provided before a deportation at the age of 18 is approved.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government's duty under Section 55 of the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Act 2009 applies to those under the age of 18. In the case of vulnerable adults aged 18 and over, a risk assessment is completed prior to removal or deportation to ensure their safety and security is protected.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-05/HL5375/>

Press Releases

External Affairs Secretary comments on latest UK migration statistics

<https://news.gov.scot/news/external-affairs-secretary-comments-on-latest-uk-migration-statistics>

Parliament backs migration powers

<https://news.gov.scot/news/parliament-backs-migration-powers>

Lord Advocate speaks at Modern Slavery Summit

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1696-lord-advocate-speaks-at-modern-slavery-summit>

Over 10,000 refugees resettled in the UK under flagship scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-10000-refugees-resettled-in-the-uk-under-flagship-scheme>

Immigration statistics, October to December 2017: data tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/681232/sponsorship-oct-dec-2017-tables.ods

UN Child Rights Experts call for EU-wide ban on child immigration detention

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22681&LangID=E>

New Publications

Migration Statistics

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06077/SN06077.pdf>

A Hostile Environment? Documenting the living situation for asylum seekers in London

http://refugeerights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/RRE_A-Hostile-Environment.pdf

News

Migration figures: Highest number of EU nationals leaving UK in a decade

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43154308>

UK immigration latest: EU net migration falls over past year as Brexit uncertainty continues

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-immigration-latest-brexiteu-migrants-workers-talks-statistics-falling-a8222736.html>

Net migration from Europe falls below 100,000 for first time since 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/02/22/net-migration-europe-falls-100000-first-time-since-2013/>

EU migration to UK falls to lowest level since 2012

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/eu-migration-falls-to-lowest-level-since-2012-fxx0sgdv6>

Net migration of EU nationals to Britain falls by 75,000

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/feb/22/net-migration-of-eu-nationals-to-britain-falls-by-75000>

Number of eastern EU nationals in UK workforce falls by 5%

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/feb/21/number-of-western-eu-nationals-in-uk-workforce-falls-by-5-percent>

Are sick migrants avoiding NHS doctors over deportation fears?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43139702>

Home Office contractors 'cuffed detained migrants' inside coach on fire

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/feb/21/home-office-contractors-cuffed-detained-migrants-inside-coach-on-fire>

Caribbean diplomats ask UK for more compassion for citizens

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/feb/22/caribbean-diplomats-ask-uk-for-more-compassion-for-citizens>

I've been here for 50 years': the scandal of the former Commonwealth citizens threatened with deportation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/feb/21/ive-been-here-for-50-years-the-scandal-of-the-former-commonwealth-citizens-threatened-with-deportation>

Some use immigration as euphemism for race, says Diane Abbott

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/feb/21/some-use-immigration-as-euphemism-for-race-says-diane-abbott>

Failed asylum man's suicide after studying dream destroyed

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-43141311>

Syrian refugees in the UK: 'We've lost nothing but our country'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-43163570/syrian-refugees-in-the-uk-we-ve-lost-nothing-but-our-country>

Gaelic-speaking Canadian teacher loses Mull job as Home Office says 'no shortage' exists

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/further-blow-island-school-qualified-12066708>

We have created a fictional image of migrants as victims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-have-created-a-fictional-image-of-migrants-as-victims-gc385875c>

Home Office tells GP to deliver deportation notice to patient with mental health problem

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/home-office-gp-deportation-mental-health-patient-immigration-a8225291.html>

Yarl's Wood women feel desperate, says Diane Abbott

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/feb/23/yarls-wood-women-feel-desperate-says-diane-abbott>

Let's celebrate all migrants, not just the exceptional few

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/feb/22/celebrate-migrants-not-exceptional-few-britain>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Salah, Pogba, Özil ... the Muslim heroes of English football

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/25/muslims-football-racism-premier-league-mohamed-salah>

Molly Dineen: a white rebel's close-up of black Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news-review/molly-dineen-a-white-rebels-close-up-of-black-britain-cx95tcjb8>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-10621 Sandra White (SNP): Scottish Ethnic Minority Older People Forum – That the Parliament welcomes the launch of the Scottish Ethnic Minority Older People Forum, which took place in the Fairfax Somerville committee room on 22 February 2018; notes that the forum aims to provide a collective voice to influence change in policy and service planning; understands that it has been developed by the Older People Services Project, which is funded by the Big Lottery Fund, and managed jointly by Trust Housing Association, Hanover Housing Association (Scotland) and Bield Housing Association; believes that it will be self-managed by its members, who have been selected from various different backgrounds to develop skills and experience in advocacy, and wishes this positive initiative every success.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-10621&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Housing: Travellers

Kate Green (Labour) [127503] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to encourage registered social landlords to apply for the Affordable Homes Grant to build new sites for Travellers.

Reply from Dominic Raab: The Department published an addendum to the Affordable Homes Programme 2016-21 prospectus and supplementary information, which set out that funding is now available for new build traveller pitches within the Programme.

Local authorities and housing associations are invited to submit their bids which

will be assessed based on the criteria set out in these documents.

The addendum to the prospectus and supplementary information are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/shared-ownership-and-affordable-homes-programme-2016-to-2021-guidance>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127503/>

New Publications

Building a human rights culture in Scotland

http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1754/building_a_human_rights_culture_scotland.pdf

European Rona Rights Centre: The fragility of professional competence

<http://www.errc.org/cms/upload/file/the-fragility-of-professional-competence-january-2018.pdf>

News

Scotland needs more ethnic minority head teachers, says Sarwar

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-needs-more-ethnic-minority-head-teachers-says-sarwar-1-4691502>

Sarwar's call to tackle lack of ethnic minority head teachers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-02-19/scotland/sarwars-call-to-tackle-lack-of-ethnic-minority-head-teachers-vkxt85gsh>

University pledges to 'decolonise' degrees after listening to students

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/school-of-oriental-and-african-studies-pledges-to-decolonise-degrees-after-listening-to-students-0q6vmn9zt>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Antisemitism

Ivan Lewis (Independent) [127178] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her Department's policies of the Community Security Trust's Antisemitic Incidents Report 2017.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office is committed to addressing all forms of hate crime. In July 2016, the Department published *Action Against Hate: The UK Government's Plan for Tackling Hate Crime*.

The Government will refresh this action plan in 2018, working closely with a wide network of partners and stakeholders including the Community Security Trust (CST).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127178/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://cst.org.uk/data/file/a/b/IR17.1517308734.pdf>

The Plan for Tackling Hate Crime referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

Antisemitism

Catherine West (Labour) [127282] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many anti-Semitic hate crimes have been reported in each of the last 12 months in (a) London Borough of Haringey, (b) London and (c) England.

Reply from Nick Hurd: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the number of religious hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales by police force area.

Data on religious hate crimes by police force area can be found in the Home Office Hate Crime Open Data Tables, available here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/651719/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717-tables.ods

For religious hate crimes, the Home Office began collecting information on the perceived religion of the victim on a mandatory basis in April 2017. These data are due to be published in the next hate crime statistical bulletin in autumn 2018.

This Government is committed to tackling hate crime. The UK has a strong legislative framework to tackle hate crime. We are working across Government with police, (including National Community Tensions Team), the Crown Prosecution Service and community partners to send out a clear message that hate crime will not be tolerated and we will vigorously pursue and prosecute those who commit these crimes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127282/>

Travellers: Discrimination

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [126262] To ask the Attorney General, how many successful prosecutions there have been under the Equality Act 2010 for discrimination against the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Reply from Robert Buckland: There was one prosecution under s175 (1)(a) and 2 of the Equalities Act in 2011/12. This creates offences in relation to access to public service vehicles. In accordance with CPS Retention Policy a case involving an offence under section 175 of the Equalities Act 2010 would be archived one year following sentencing. Therefore, no further information is held about the case in question.

Section 9 of the Equality Act 2010 defines the protected characteristics of 'race'. Race includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins. Ethnic or national origins include being from a Roma or Traveler background, therefore the CPS prosecutes crimes against the Gypsy and Traveller communities under other legislation, in particular hate crimes against the community.

A programme of CPS mandated training for prosecutors, including racially aggravated crime, was developed and completed by the start of 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-01/126262/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Mann (Labour) (949) Community Security Trust – Incident Report – That this House notes the 2017 incidents report by the Community Security Trust (CST); further notes that the report details the highest annual total of antisemitic incidents that CST has ever recorded of 1,382 cases, a three per cent increase from the 2016 total, which was itself a record annual total; is concerned that there is now a pattern of consistently high incident totals; is further concerned that these most recent high figures were sustained by a combination of factors, including the increase in all forms of recorded hate crime and the publicity regarding alleged antisemitism in the Labour Party; resolves to continue to offer cross-party parliamentary support for CST's work and vital activities for the Jewish

community; and further resolves to work with CST, the Government and other organisations to ensure the safety of the Jewish Community in Britain.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/949>

New Publication

Antisemitic Content on Twitter

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/4/2/Antisemitic%20Content%20on%20Twitter.pdf>

News

Police probe neo-Nazi video threat sent to MSP Anas Sarwar

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/police-probe-neo-nazi-video-12054303>

'Scotland is my home ... I'm not going anywhere' Anas Sarwar's defiant response after vile email urged him to 'go back to Pakistan'

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scotland-home--im-not-12048885>

Harry and Meghan letter sent to palace 'race hate crime'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-43158184>

Meghan Markle and Prince Harry were sent racist letter with fake anthrax

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-02-23/news/meghan-markle-and-prince-harry-were-sent-racist-letter-with-fake-anthrax-v5h63qxdq>

Bigot mum told cops she would strap explosives to her body and 'blow Glasgow Central Mosque to hell'

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/racist-mum-who-threatened-strap-12067008>

Sikh man has turban ripped off in racist attack while waiting to meet MP outside Parliament

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/sikh-man-turban-ripped-off-parliament-hate-crime-police-london-portcullis-house-a8222376.html>

'Bring back Golliwog' Forest of Dean councillor resigns

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-43157753>

Golliwogs will stay in museum display

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/golliwogs-will-stay-in-museum-display-9tx5mnwdk>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

Asian Community (Attacks)

Jackson Carlaw (Conservative): ... At a recent meeting with the Asian community in my Eastwood constituency, Police Scotland confirmed that there has been a sustained series of forensically aware, gang-related, targeted attacks on Asian households in, I understand, Eastwood and East Dunbartonshire. The attacks are taking place between 12 pm and 6 pm, fortunately but not exclusively when properties have not been occupied.

My constituents make no complaint about the actions of Police Scotland or the efforts that it is making, but Police Scotland has made the point that there is a reluctance on the part of the public to come forward, as they believe that the information that they may have will be regarded as either trivial or circumstantial. Will the First Minister join me in assuring people that they are not wasting police time and that, if we are going to tackle this particular, very pernicious attack on the Asian community, it requires all members of the public to give whatever information they have to the police immediately so that they can act on it?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Yes. As Jackson Carlaw is aware, I represent a very large Asian population in my constituency, and I am well aware of the issue and these attacks, which are targeted on the Asian community. They are absolutely unacceptable and should be completely condemned by all of us. I personally know people who have been targeted in that way in recent weeks. It is a serious issue and one that, on a constituency basis, I will be raising again with Police Scotland, although it works very hard to support the community.

Jackson Carlaw is right to say that anybody within the community who has concerns should come forward and share those concerns. The information that they give will never be treated as trivial, because it is not trivial. The attacks are pernicious and must be tackled. I know that Police Scotland is determined to do all that it can to tackle them, and all of us should give all the support that we possibly can to a very valued and valuable part of our community as they face attacks on them that are completely unacceptable.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11374&i=103423#ScotParlOR>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Forced Marriage Unit

The following two questions both received the same answer

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [128408] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many telephone calls received by the forced marriage unit were from (a) domestic and (b) international locations since 2016.

Female Genital Mutilation

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [128410] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many calls the 24-hour female genital mutilation hotline has received since January 2016.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: In 2016 the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) helpline received approximately 3,500 calls, which translates to 1,428 cases. FMU records the focus country as where marriage is due to take place regardless of where the victim is at the time of first contact. In 2016, in 90% of cases the ceremony did or was due to take place overseas. In the rest of the cases received the risk was in the UK.

The NSPCC run and fund a 24 hour national helpline for female genital mutilation. As the helpline is not funded by the Home Office we do not hold this data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128408/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [128411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which organisations applied for funding from her Department for community projects to

tackle female genital mutilation since 2016; and which applications were (a) accepted and (b) rejected.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government is clear that we will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong suffering to women and girls.

Through its £17 million Violence Against Women and Girls Transformation Fund the Home Office is providing funding for a number of projects working to tackle FGM, which include projects led by Havant Borough Council, West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner. In addition the Government has provided funding to Southall Black Sisters and the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Organisation through the Tampon Tax Fund, both of which carry out work to tackle FGM.

The Building a Stronger Britain Together (BSBT) Programme has provided funding for a number of community organisations working to change attitudes to tackle FGM and promote wider shared values. A full list of BSBT partners can be found at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661395/BSBT-list-of-groups.pdf.

In addition, the Department for Education has provided £2 million through the social care innovation programme for the National FGM Centre run by Barnardo's and the Local Government Association, and last year announced a further £1.7 million to be made available to continue the development of this work.

We do not routinely release information about unsuccessful applicants due to commercial sensitivity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-19/128411/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [126894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases of female genital mutilation have been reported under Section 5B of the Genital Mutilation Act 2003 since 2010.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

Whilst we do not currently collect data centrally on the number of reports made to the police under the FGM Mandatory Reporting Duty, we are considering how this data could be collected in future as part of the police Annual Data Requirement.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-06/126894/>

TOP

New Publications

Fundraising Guidance for Charity Trustees

https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/3038/v10_fundraising-guidance-for-charity-trustees.pdf

Updated: Technical Guide: Charities and Benevolent Fundraising (Scotland) Regulations 2009

https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/3042/v10_technical-guide-to-the-2009-regulations.pdf

TOP

Other News

Halal and kosher slaughter threatens welfare standards, say farmers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-02-21/news/halal-and-kosher-slaughter-threatens-uk-welfare-standards-say-farmers-3hrjrk36>

Father is cleared as lack of evidence halts FGM trial

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-02-23/news/judge-halts-fgm-trial-after-photos-show-child-to-be-unharmmed-zl3b5z508>

TOP

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105269.aspx>

Stage 2: proposed amendments

[http://www.parlamaid.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20\(Repeal\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill19MLS052018.pdf](http://www.parlamaid.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20(Repeal)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill19MLS052018.pdf)

UK Parliament

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/immigrationcontrolgrosshumanrightsabuses.html>

Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/eeanationalsindefiniteleavetoremain.html>

**** European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-02-21/debates/E919EDEC-6738-4CFC-9653-DD1B3D381611/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-02-21/debates/E919EDEC-6738-4CFC-9653-DD1B3D381611/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-02-21/debates/890B383C-A9FD-44C0-BFA3-C9559A2A3861/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-02-21/debates/890B383C-A9FD-44C0-BFA3-C9559A2A3861/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Notice of amendments

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-II.pdf>

and

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-II\(a\).pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-II(a).pdf)

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

** Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

Explanatory Notes

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0013/en/18013en.pdf>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** Newly published but closes this week!**

Asylum Accommodation (closing date 4 March 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asylum-accommodation-call-for-evidence>

EU funds in the area of migration (closing date 8 March 2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/eu-funds-area-migration_en

Electoral Reform (closing date 12 March 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529431.pdf>

Human Rights (closing date 16 March 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/106453.aspx>

A Connected Scotland: Tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger communities (closing date 27 April 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00530204.pdf>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

TOP

Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

TOP

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Creative Communities Fund: Refugee Festival Scotland

Closing date for applications: 6 March 2018

Community groups from across Scotland that are led by refugees or that have a focus on working with refugees and asylum seekers are invited to apply for up to £500 to deliver an arts and cultural event or activity as part of Refugee Festival Scotland 2018.

This fund is designed to enable these groups to participate in Refugee Festival Scotland 2018 by delivering an event or activity with their members and local public that will help the group to strengthen their connections, partnerships and networks with receiving communities.

For information and to apply see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/refugee_festival_scotland/community_celebrations

Sandy Watson Memorial Fund

Closing date for applications: 16 March 2018

Young Scot funding open to groups of three or more young people from across Scotland aged 11-26 who have an idea to drive change or develop with a focus on mental health or the arts. This fund will support projects, personal development and community support with a focus on either of these themes.

For information and to apply see

<https://young.scot/yoyp2018/yoyp-articles/apply-for-the-sandy-watson-memorial-fund/>

Workplace Equality Fund

Closing date for applications: 29 March 2018

Scottish Government funding to support private businesses in reducing employment inequalities, discrimination and barriers in the workplace. Grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 are available. In exceptional circumstances, applications of up to £100,000 will be considered. To be eligible applicants should be a private business or a third sector organisation whose project proposes to work with private business.

The funding will support employers in reducing employment inequalities, discrimination and barriers particularly across the arts, culture, leisure, tourism, finance, manufacturing, construction, agriculture and fishing, transport and communication and STEM sectors.

For information and to apply see <https://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/workplace-equality-fund/>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

27 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explain fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare

entitlements of EEA nationals and we will explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

**** this week!**

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

27 February 2018 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

**** this week!**

New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process

1 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

17 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

Scottish Apprenticeships, Careers & Volunteering Event

2 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-2.30)

BEMIS event providing an opportunity to chat informally to over 40 employers, training providers and support agencies to gain knowledge and information in accessing your future career. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8rm79dy> or contact 0141 548 8047 / ma@bemis.org.uk

**** this week!**

Introduction to Policing Programme

4 March 2018 in Edinburgh

10 March 2018 in Edinburgh

Police Scotland four-day course for people from minority ethnic communities to provide an insight into being a police officer. Includes input from specialist departments, fitness test, and an opportunity to visit the unique training facility at Tulliallan. For information see https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/18ii_ps.pdf or contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Working with Interpreters

8 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

22 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Immigration Act 2016: “The Hostile Environment” basics

13 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training for people providing services to or working with immigrants need up to date information to make sure their clients are able to access services without delay and

prepare for being excluded when it is inevitable. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

Introduction to Scottish Politics

16 March 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights training to explore political structures in Scotland and the UK, look at how legislation is developed, and think about effective political lobbying. For information contact Rebecca rebecca@crer.org.uk

Equality and Diversity in the Workplace

20 March 2018 in Perth (9.30-12.30)

20 March 2018 in Perth (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training outlining the fundamentals of how to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive working environment for a diverse staff and volunteer group. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

Refugee Rights to Housing

21 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to identify the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, learn how to identify their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Scotland: Raising Awareness, Strengthening Collaboration, Breaking the Chains

23 March 2018 at the Scottish Parliament

UN House Scotland conference to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery, building new and strengthening existing partnerships to make Scotland slavery free. For information see <https://www.unhscotland.org.uk/human-trafficking-conference> or contact 0131 220 6870 / hello@unhscotland.org.uk

Engaging Hard to Reach Groups

28 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement

19 April 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

2 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to better understand where unaccompanied refugee children are, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

First World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, and Health

17-19 May 2018 in Edinburgh

(‘earlybird’ deadline (for reduced fee) is 3 February 2018)

The aims of the Congress include improved research, population health and health care for migrants and other discriminated-against populations, and considering the health effects of social, environmental and demographic change associated with population migration, and the effects on diseases and their causes. For information see <http://www.merhcongress.com/> (full programme now available on the conference website) or contact merh@in-conference.org.uk / 0131 336 4203.

Refugee Community Sponsorship

24 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

TOP

Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

UK Government Honours system <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Development Scotland <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

[TOP](#)



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.